The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20241231193344/https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/benefits.html

COVID-19

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

Benefits of Getting Vaccinated

On October 23, 2024, CDC updated COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for people 65 years and older and for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised. This page will be updated soon to align with the new recommendations.

Read the media statement.

WHAT TO KNOW

There are many benefits of getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines protect your health

COVID 19-vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. Vaccination remains the safest strategy for avoiding hospitalizations, long-term health outcomes, and death.

- Prevents serious illness: COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are safe and effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying.
- A safer way to build protection: Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer, more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19.
- Offers added protection: COVID-19 vaccines can offer added protection to people who had COVID-19, including protection against being hospitalized from a new infection.

How to be best protected: As with vaccines for other diseases, people are best protected when they stay up to date.

What you can do now to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death

Everyone ages 6 months and older should get a 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine. CDC recommends everyone ages 5 years and older get 1 updated 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 6 months–4 years may need more than 1 dose of updated COVID-19 to stay up to date.

Severe illness

COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing the most severe outcomes from a COVID-19 infection.

Myocarditis is a condition where the heart becomes inflamed in response to an infection or some other trigger. Myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccination is rare. This study shows that patients with COVID-19 had nearly 16 times the risk for myocarditis compared with patients who did not have COVID-19.

Hospitalization

COVID-19 vaccines can help prevent you from becoming hospitalized if you do get infected with COVID-19.

Death

COVID-19 vaccines can help prevent you from dying if you do get infected with COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccination is a safer, more reliable way to build protection

Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine Is Safer and More Reliable

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer, more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect people by creating an immune response without the potentially severe illness or post-COVID conditions that can be associated with COVID-19 infection.

Getting Sick

- Getting sick with COVID-19 can cause severe illness or death, even in children, but it is not possible to determine who will experience mild or severe illness from COVID-19 infection.
- People may have long-term health issues after having COVID-19. Even people who do not have symptoms when they are first infected with COVID-19 can experience long-term health problems, also known as long COVID or post-COVID conditions.
- Complications can appear after mild or severe COVID-19, or after multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C).

Protection from COVID-19

While people can get some protection from having COVID-19, the level and length of that protection varies, especially as COVID-19 variants continue to emerge.

- Immunity (protection) from infection can vary depending on how mild or severe someone's illness was and their age.
- Immunity from infection decreases over time.

Importantly, there is no antibody test available that can reliably determine if a person is protected from further infection.

After Vaccination

After vaccination, continue to follow all current respiratory virus prevention measures recommended by CDC. Learn more about protecting your family from COVID-19.

SOURCES

CONTENT SOURCE:
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases; Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division